

## Ostrom Mushroom Farm

This investigation was prompted by multiple complaints regarding excessive odors from the facility. ORCAA received five complaints recently between March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. Three of the complaints came in on March 21, 2018. Complainants included those living in the vicinity of the facility and those using the Regional Athletic Park that is south of the facility. There is a Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) ruling (PCHB No. 04-105 & PCHB NO. 04-140) that affects this facility.

The site inspection was announced on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and conducted on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Participants: Robert Moody and Mark Goodin with ORCAA; David Knudsen and Chris Street with Ostrom.

The weather was suitable for observing odors during the inspection. According to Weather Underground, the temperature was in the low 50s, humidity was about 73%, wind speed was 10 mph from the south southwest. It did not rain during our visit.

We entered through the front gate at 2:00 PM and signed in at the security office. Hair nets were provided to us. Knudsen met us at the office and escorted us on a tour of the composting portion of the operation. We were joined later by Street. According to Knudsen, the large storm water pond was built in 2012. The pond was a requirement of the Department of Ecology to control impacts to ground water. The pond appears to be the only change to the compost process in more than a decade. The large pond has two floating aerators. The 240,000 gallon leachate tank, which was in use prior to 2004, has one aerator. Excess leachate in the 240,000 gallon tank is pumped into the storm water pond. The water has a high organic content. We did not go downwind of the pond or tanks. Odors upwind were minimal.

Ostrom pre-wets the straw and then spreads it on the compost slab. Dried poultry waste (DPW) and small quantities of other constituents, such as gypsum, are added to the straw. The pond water is mixed with the straw and DPW. This pre-composting stage takes approximately 4 days. Any rainwater or excess water is collected from the compost slab and pumped back to the 240,000 gallon tank for re-use. The compost is moved to bunkers for approximately 6 days. The bunkers have an air table controlled by a fan which is on a timer. When we first observed the air table, the fan was off. It came on prior to us leaving the area. The odor from the compost in the bunkers was strong. In ORCAA's odor scale it was a 2 or greater. A front loader was emptying the south bunker and placing the material in the conveyor that feeds the indoor tunnels. The conveyor lifts the material to near the top of the tunnel building and drops the compost onto a conveyor that takes the compost into the tunnel building.

Composting is completed in the indoor tunnels.

After exiting the facility, we drove Peregrine Drive and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave located north of the facility. Odors detected toward the east end of Peregrine were a Level 2 or greater on the ORCAA odor scale. That location was down wind of the bunkers.

#### Summary

The composting materials and practices appear to be essentially the same from previous inspections. No further action is scheduled.